

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 18702 311715Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----051196 311736Z /41
O R 311256Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8396

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 18702

EXDIS

TEHRAN FOR PRESIDENTIAL PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: VISIT WITH PRIME MINISTER

1. AT HIS INVITATION I SPENT A HALF HOUR WITH PRIME MINISTER THIS EVENING. HE IS CLEARLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WITH GREAT PERSONAL INTEREST. THE CORRESPONDENCE THEY HAVE EXCHANGED, HE SAID, MADE HIM FEEL THAT HE ALREADY KNEW THE PRESIDENT AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO TALK TOGETHER WITH EASE AND DIRECTNESS.

2. I WAS NOT ABLE TO DRAW THE PRIME MINISTER OUT ON NON-PRO-LEFERATION ISSUES. WHEN I SAID I WAS SURE THE PRESIDENT WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS THEM, HE SIMPLE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT THEM AS FULLY AND FRANKLY AS THE PRESIDENT WISHED. WITH ME THE THE PRIME MINISTER PREFERRED TO TALK ABOUT HIS FEELING THAT THE LEADERS OF RUSSIA AND AMERICA MUST TRY TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER BETTER AND REDUCE THE SUSPICION AND FEAR THAT HAS SO OFTEN PREVAILED. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH BREZHNEV ABOUT THIS AND TOLD HIM HE WOULD LIKE INDIA TO PLAY A ROLE IN BUILDING IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING AND CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE US. I BELIEVE MORARJI EXPECTS
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TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN THE SAME VEIN.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER SEVERAL TIMES EXPRESSED REGRET THAT HE AND THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE SO VERY LITTLE TIME TOGETHER. TO EXTEND THAT TIME A LITTLE, HE WANTS TO RIDE BACK FROM THE RAMHLILLA CEREMONY TO THE RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN WITH PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER IN THEIR CAR. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE MAY REOPEN

PERSONALLY WITH THE PRESIDENT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VILLAGE VISIT.
THE MORNING OF JANUARY 3 BEFORE THE SIGNING CEREMONY. NOT
ONLY DOES HE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD MEAN A LOT TO
PEOPLE HERE, BUT HE SEES THE DRIVE OUT AND BACK AS OFFERING MORE
TIME FOR PERSONAL DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE18702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780004-0768
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977121/aaaaaamn.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 17e020fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 101091
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT WITH PRIME MINISTER
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/17e020fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009